

01081

1963/11/02

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

39

UNCLASSIFIED

Action

Control: 1273

Rec'd: November 2, 1963
1:35 p.m.

FE

Info

FROM: Saigon

SS

TO: Secretary of State

P

USIA

NO: 892, November 2nd.

RMR

PASS NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU WASHINGTON FROM HALBERSTAM

Freedman this filed at 8:30 p.m. after cables closed and is accurate updating of Diem Nhu death as follows:

Dien and Nhu are dead

The military radio said both had committed suicide. But this caused doubts since both are Catholics and Diem is a particularly devout Catholic.

Extremely reliable private military sources said both were assassinated. These sources said that they escaped from palace by an underground tunnel shortly before Marines overran it. Then Diem was spotted in a small Catholic Church in Cholon. Was not known by Government whether Nhu was with him. Military leaders dispatched troops and armored cars and both men were taken prisoner. They were placed inside an MM 113 Armored personnel carrier and were guarded by several soldiers. On way to Military Headquarters according to a source order was given to assassinate both. When armored car arrived at headquarters both men were dead.

Military leaders claim both shot selves while in transit..

HALBERSTAM

ebc

ADVANCE COPY TO S/S-O 11/2/63-1:41 p.m.

PASSED WHITE HOUSE 11/2/63-1:45 p.m.

UNCLASSIFIED

REPRODUCTION FROM THIS COPY IS
PROHIBITED UNLESS "UNCLASSIFIED"